

DECEMBER 2024

Sorell Community News

community coast country

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Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy

The Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS) is one of three land use strategies in Tasmania and is a long-term plan to facilitate and manage change, growth and development, whilst protecting our natural values, within Southern Tasmania to 2035.

Since the preparation of the STRLUS in 2011 (which was informed by 2006 ABS data), the Southern Tasmanian region has experienced strong population growth with new economic and social conditions also driving change. There have also been changes to planning policy and legislation such as the introduction of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the Tasmanian Planning Policies. Therefore a review is required.

The STRLUS applies to the twelve councils of Southern Tasmania including Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring-Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart,

Huon Valley, Kingborough, Sorell, Southern Midlands and Tasman.

The STRLUS project team invites you to have your say on the future of land use in Southern Tasmania via:

- › Completing a short online survey
- › Sharing an idea
- › Holding a community conversation
- › In-person community events.

Online feedback will close at 11:59pm, Wednesday 18 December 2024

Head to www.shapingtasmania.com.au for all the information.



Mayor's Message



This is my first newsletter after being voted into the Mayoral position. I have thoroughly enjoyed the learning and challenges.

I have met some incredible people who demonstrate a real commitment to our community. We are very lucky to have so many opportunities available to us and as I delve into the corners of our municipality am always taken by how beautiful our place is, and how lucky we are.

With the estimated growth of our municipality and region continuing at a rapid pace, I'm pleased to see the pieces required to support this growth coming together. Recent projects and Government investment into the south east sees us nicely positioned with the required infrastructure to support that growth. The bones have been built and we are steadily putting the meat on them. We are in a positive position for a sustainable future.

The Dodges Ferry Primary School redevelopment and expansion has commenced community consultation and Sorell School redevelopment first stage is complete. The new facilities at Sorell School are a benefit to all. The mina nina krakani canteen area is operating as designed and is proving a true community asset. The Nest Child and Family Learning Centre is also proving an outstanding success, with many grandparents, parents and children all engaging with each other. That cross generational interaction is so important to positive community health.

As a new Mayor, it has been encouraging for me to see our communities taking ownership of their Halls. The Dunalley Hall is now the responsibility of the local community and it is great to see community events happening in that local space.

Orielton Hall Committee have taken steps to reduce the mindless vandalism of their facility by creating a bright mural on the façade. Nugent Hall has also been "done up." It's a real bonus for the community to be able to attend and experience such diverse events in their own backyards.

An excellent development for Sorell, further cementing our role as the heart of the south east, is the opening of the new Services Australia building in Dubs and Co Drive. Co-located with Service Tasmania, the brand new service centre is significantly larger and provides modern offices for the south east community to access a wide range of Government services, including Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support.

This new building enhances our plans to transform this area of Sorell into a bustling community precinct. The precinct comprising of the Council Offices, South East Emergency Services Hub, Community Health Centre and South East Training and Jobs Hub (currently under construction) will combine with a people centric plaza style outdoor area to provide a wonderful community place for people to gather and connect.

Wonderful news for the south east region recently with the announcement that our South East Training and Jobs Hub is to be home to a Regional University Study Hub. A Regional University Study Hub is a facility regional and remote students can use to support their study of tertiary courses from any Australian institution.



Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST) were successful with their application to bring the Study Hub to Sorell to provide student support and campus-style facilities for students who study online. This will provide a huge boost for regional learners to be able to access contemporary facilities to enhance their learning as well as making connections with other students also studying online.

Whilst we feel we are seeing slow progress on the Causeway duplication, things are indeed progressing. The seabed testing is complete and this will inform the next stage of planning.

I am looking forward to the Federal election and opportunities that this will bring our community. We diligently keep all our state and federal political parties up to date with the developments and requirements of our community. Over my first 6 months as Mayor I have met with Ministers across the board and am pleased to have brought them up all to speed with our story. I believe we will see positive election commitments come forth from our Federal Lyons candidates.

As the year and a busy 6 months comes to a close, I am eager for 2025 to build on my Mayoral position and continue to build on our region and community. I am always available to chat with you about our community, your ideas and feed back are always welcome. To keep up to date on Council activity, the Sorell Council web site has regular updates and has opportunities for your feed back on various projects.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and holiday period. Please remember not everyone has someone this festive season, let's look out for each other, a smile or hello make all the difference.

Mayor Janet Gatehouse

Fire Hazards

Fire hazard inspections on privately owned residential land will commence throughout the municipality in late November/early December.

It is the responsibility of property owners to ensure their property remains fire-hazard free. Abatement notices will be issued on those landowners whose properties pose a fire hazard. Please ensure your property is cleared to reduce the risk of fire and avoid receiving an abatement notice.

We run one of the largest and most proactive fire hazard programs in the State, with the aim of reducing fire risks in our residential areas. We appreciate your support of this important program.

Australia Day Awards

Have you made a nomination in our Australia Day Awards yet? There is still time!

These Awards are the highest honour Council can bestow on an individual or group for outstanding contributions to their local community. They provide us with an opportunity to recognise those in our community who make a significant contribution or have achieved something special in the past year.

Award categories: *Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Group of the Year and Community Event of the Year.*

Nominations close at 5.00pm on Friday 10 January 2025. Full details and nominations are available online at www.sorell.tas.gov.au.



South East Training and Jobs Hub

SERDA, Sorell Council, and Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania (BEST) successfully lobbied the Federal and State Governments for funding to construct a dedicated facility to train adults and support businesses across the region – the South East Training and Jobs Hub.

This centrally located facility on Dubs and Co Drive, adjacent to the child care centre and the park and ride facility, will also be a designated service hub for a number of associated community service providers. It will enable BEST to expand to meet the forecast growth and demand for mature aged training and upskilling in the south east region. The new facility will also allow for collaboration with a wide range of service and training providers, complement the existing Trade Training Centre and allow BEST to continue to grow their services and assist more people and businesses in the south east region.

The facility will have training and mentoring rooms, offices, mental health rooms, a large rumpus room and amenities that will enable a range of mixed uses that can be tailored to the needs of participants. Car parking and forecourt / landscaping is also included in the project scope.

Construction of the Hub is progressing well with structural framing and the roofing complete. The next stage will see mechanical ventilation, windows and external cladding installed.

Council received the following funding for the project:

- Australian Government: \$1,500,000
 - Tasmanian Government — Skills Agreement, Tasmania TAFE: \$1,500,000
 - Tasmanian Government — 2021 State election commitment: \$1,500,000
- TOTAL \$4,500,000

Merry Christmas from Sorell Council!

On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and Staff at Sorell Council we wish you and your family a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Please take note of the following information in regard to Council services over the holiday period:

Council Closure: The Council Offices will be closed from 12 noon on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and re-open at 8.00am on Thursday 2 January 2025.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency during the holiday period, please phone 6269 0000.

Kerbside Collections: Kerbside garbage and recycling collections due for Christmas Day, 25 December, will instead take place on **Saturday 28 December 2024**. Please have your bins kerbside by 6.00am ready for collection. All other collections will take place as usual over the holiday period.

Fresh Valuation Cycle

The Valuer-General is the statutory Government officer responsible for establishing and maintaining the Statutory Valuation program including a Valuation Roll for each municipal area under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001*.

The Office of the Valuer-General (OVG) will soon be commencing a fresh valuation cycle.

The OVG is required to assess statutory values of all properties in Tasmania, including Crown land that is liable for rating. The three values assessed are Land Value, Capital Value and Assessed Annual Value.

Generally a fresh valuation of each Municipality is undertaken every six years. Within this six year period, to better manage property valuation movements every two years the OVG determine whether an adjustment factor (indexation) should be applied. Supplementary valuations are also undertaken during the six-year period whenever a major change occurs to some aspect of a property.

The OVG will be revaluing all properties in our Municipality during 2024/2025. Contractors have been undertaking kerbside inspections of properties with valuations effective from 1 July 2025.

Tree Vandalism Policy

Unfortunately we receive many complaints about damage and destruction of trees and vegetation on public land.

We value our natural environment and the role that native vegetation plays in providing visual amenity, habitat for wildlife and protection against landslip and erosion.

Council recently approved the Tree Vandalism Policy which will provides us with the opportunity to deter damage or destruction of native vegetation on public land by erecting signage on sites of tree vandalism.

Once installed the signage may be removed once the planted vegetation has re-grown to a similar age and/or at a similar advanced stage of growth.

We hope that this will deter unnecessary vandalism and destruction of our precious trees and vegetation.

Your Councillors

Contact details for our Councillors can be found on our website at www.sorell.tas.gov.au/contact



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Reserve Management Plans

We engaged North Barker Ecosystem Services to create Management Plans for five reserves in the Southern Beaches area: **Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve, Parnella Reserve, Payeena Reserve, Bally Park Reserve (now White Gum Reserve), and Samuel Thorne Reserve.**

These plans compile all known information about each reserve, including a natural values assessment detailing the plants and animals found there, as well as the site's history. Each Reserve Management Plan outlines goals, objectives, and strategies to guide the effective management and conservation of these spaces for the future.

The process included multiple community consultation sessions, with feedback gathered both in person and online, and targeted engagement with key stakeholders.

Additionally, we collaborated with Fire Risk Consultants to develop Bushfire Management Plans for four reserves: **Dodges Ferry Recreation Reserve, Parnella Reserve, Payeena Reserve, and Samuel Thorne Reserve.** These plans address bushfire risks and enhance the protection of communities and assets by identifying priority areas for fuel management. They provide practical guidance on planned burns, fuel management, fire trails, fuel breaks, hazard management areas, and asset protection measures.

All Reserve and Bushfire Management Plans were formally endorsed by Council at the November meeting.

We are now working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare to guide our collaborative efforts in managing the natural values of these important community spaces, with the plans serving as our framework.

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Any feedback about the newsletter is welcomed and can be forwarded to sorell.council@sorell.tas.gov.au



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